



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

September 6, 2007

The Honorable Daniel E. Cort  
Mayor, City of Pacific Grove  
City Hall  
300 Forest Ave.  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Dear Mayor Cort,

I wanted to write to say thank you for your thoughtful comments at the town hall meeting in Monterey last week about our light brown apple moth eradication project. I regret that we didn't get an opportunity to meet that night and hope we will get a chance to talk in the near future.

In your remarks last week, you voiced concerns about the impacts the moth pheromone treatments would have on the monarch butterfly. Others in your community who share your concern contacted Dr. Chip Taylor, a Kansas University entomology professor and monarch butterfly specialist who is director of the conservation group Monarch Watch. The communications with Dr. Taylor eventually drew in staff from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for an exchange of information that resulted in Dr. Taylor authoring a statement including the following:

I insisted on learning more about the carrier/diluting agent or other delivery system. The response...indicates that the pheromones, which are non-toxic in themselves, are delivered with polyurea microcapsules. In other words, this is a granular formulation, one that lacks a petroleum-based carrier and a possible wetting agent...It would appear that the spraying is not an immediate threat to the monarchs at Pacific Grove.

In an earlier communication, Dr. Taylor mentioned that an oil-based carrier acting as a wetting agent could be cause for concern. Also, Dr. Taylor referenced information from CDFA that the Pacific Grove Sanctuary on Ridge Road is located just outside the treatment boundary.

I hope this information is helpful to the people of Pacific Grove. Please allow me to say that I am confident in the science that has been presented about the safety and efficacy of Checkmate OLR-F. I believe this to be the most environmentally friendly pest eradication project in the history of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. We have chosen an approach that addresses unique local environmental concerns such as the monarch butterfly, the proximity of local sea life, and regional endangered and threatened species like Smith's blue butterfly and saline clover.

I appreciate the concerns and the passion demonstrated by some of the citizens of Monterey County. They have raised some important questions about the project, and we have posted them—along with answers—on our web site:  
[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam\\_main.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam_main.html)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is committed to protecting the life systems of this state. We will stay in communication with the people and municipalities of Monterey County. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A.G. Kawamura  
Secretary

cc: Congressman Sam Farr, Senator Abel Maldonado, Assemblymember, John Laird, Assemblymember Anna Caballero, Assemblymember Nicole Parra, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Eric Lauritzen.

